

10-12-00

Honorable Donna E. Shalala  
Secretary of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Ave., S.W. Room 615F  
Washington, D. C. 20201

Dear Secretary Shalala:

I am writing because I need your help. Current actions of the FDA could put me out of work.

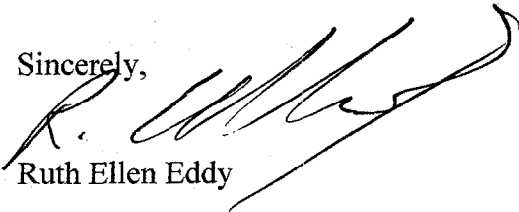
It has been brought to my attention that right now the Federal FDA is rushing to publish a proposed rule to revise the way hearing aids are sold in this country.

The plan, as I understand, would abdicate Federal FDA authority over hearing aid sales and allow states to determine who will dispense hearing aids and what tests should be administered before an aid is purchased.

This plan could easily put me and many other hearing aid specialists out of work. Of course it could also put the small businesses who employ us out of business. It seems, also, that the FDA has not taken the time to seriously consider the fact that this plan would greatly effect access to hearing aid services for millions of people all over the United States.

I am asking you to carefully weigh the impact on small business and on the hearing impaired, and to reject this ill-conceived proposal.

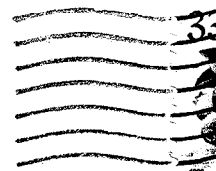
Sincerely,

  
Ruth Ellen Eddy

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